

Maryland Register

Issue Date: December 27, 2013
Volume 40 • Issue 26 • Pages 2149-2216

Title 11 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Subtitle 03 MARYLAND AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

11.03.01 Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport

Authority: Transportation Article, §§5-204, 5-208, and 5-415, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[13-423-P]

The Executive Director of the Maryland Aviation Administration proposes to adopt new Regulation .13 under **COMAR 11.03.01 Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport**. This action was considered by the Maryland Aviation Commission at an open meeting held on May 22, 2013, notice of which was given, pursuant to State Government Article §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to establish a fee for ambulance transports conducted by the Maryland Aviation Administration Fire Rescue Service and the procedures to administer the collection of the ambulance transport fee.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

I. Summary of Economic Impact. Anticipated additional revenue is based on actual collection of the ambulance transport fee.

II. Types of Economic Impact.	Revenue (R+/R-)	Magnitude
	Expenditure (E+/E-)	
A. On issuing agency	(R+)	Minimal
B. On other State agencies:	NONE	
C. On local governments:	NONE	
	Benefit (+)	Magnitude
	Cost (-)	
D. On regulated industries or trade groups	(-)	Indeterminable
E. On other industries or trade groups:	NONE	
F. Direct and indirect effects on public	(-)	Indeterminable

III. Assumptions. (Identified by Impact Letter and Number from Section II.)

A. The intent of the ambulance transport fee program is to create a system which generates a revenue stream for the government to defray a portion of the cost of services provided, while the operational responsibilities of billing and collection are handled by a contractor. It is difficult to estimate the potential revenue to the Administration as actual collection rates can be sporadic. The Administration expects the revenue generated would be approximately \$100,000 per year, using a collection rate of 30% and an estimated 700 billed Emergency Medical Services transports performed each year, at \$500 per billing.

D. and F. It is also difficult to determine the cost impact on the public and the insurance industry. It is anticipated that the majority of the costs will be absorbed by insurance providers, not individuals. However, the Administration cannot determine the frequency at which the fees will be paid either by an individual or by an insurance provider or, in some cases, will be shared between both.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Jeanette Brewer, Regulations Coordinator, Maryland Aviation Administration, P.O. Box 8766, Third Floor, Terminal Building, BWI Airport, MD 21240, or call 410-859-7734, or email to jbrewer1@bwiairport.com, or fax to 410-850-4127. Comments will be accepted through January 27, 2014. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.13 Fire Rescue Service Ambulance Transport Fee.

A. General Regulations.

(1) *The Maryland Aviation Administration Fire Rescue Service shall charge an ambulance transport fee of \$500 to any individual the Fire Rescue Service transports to a hospital from any property owned by the Administration or from property subject to a mutual aid agreement to which the Administration is a party.*

(2) *An individual who is transported to a hospital by the Maryland Aviation Administration Fire Rescue Service shall, as soon as practicable after transport:*

(a) *Provide to the Administration, or its designated agent, all information pertaining to potential third-party payors for the individual, such as Medicare, Medicaid, or a commercial insurer; and*

(b) *Execute any assignment of benefits necessary to permit the submission of a claim for the ambulance transport fee to any such third-party payors.*

(3) *The Administration shall accept the amounts paid on behalf of an individual by all applicable third-party payors, such as Medicare, Medicaid, or a commercial insurer, as full and final payment of the ambulance transport fee and shall write off the balance except that the individual shall still be responsible to the Administration for any outstanding copayment or deductible amounts.*

B. Waiver of Fee. *The ambulance transport fee may be waived by the Administration's Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee if:*

(1) *An individual provides proof to the Administration that the individual has no third-party payor and that the individual meets the income guidelines for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or the Maryland Food Supplement Program; or*

(2) *An individual provides proof to the Administration of a catastrophic financial hardship as a result of such things as a severe extended illness or injury, loss of all income, or homelessness.*

C. Collection of Fee.

(1) *The Administration may procure the services of a private third-party billing company to administer and collect the ambulance transport fee.*

(2) *The private company contracted by the Administration to bill and collect the ambulance transport fee shall do so in accordance with all federal and State laws and regulations and any directives from the Administration.*

(3) *The private company's services shall include, but not be limited to:*

(a) *Generating and mailing invoices to individuals based upon transport information from the Administration;*

(b) *Filing insurance claims as soon as valid insurance information is received, whether from a run sheet, a hospital face sheet, or hospital/field data acquisition, or provided by an individual;*

(c) *Sending reminder notices up to two times at regular intervals of approximately 30 days;*

(d) *Contacting individuals when necessary to clarify insurance information;*

(e) *Making payments to the Administration of all amounts collected on the Administration's behalf; and*

(f) *Providing monthly reports to the Administration on collection efforts and accounts the private company has deemed uncollectible.*

(4) *All accounts that are reported to the Administration as being uncollectible by the private third-party billing company shall be forwarded by the Administration to the Department of Budget and Management, Central Collection Unit.*

PAUL J. WIEDEFELD
Executive Director
Maryland Aviation Administration